

THE WILSON BULLETIN

Published at Sioux City, Iowa, by the Wilson Ornithological Club.

The present editorial organization is as follows: T. C. Stephens, Editor-in-Chief, Sioux City, Iowa; Myron H. Swenk, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska; Albert F. Ganier, Nashville, Tennessee; Alfred M. Bailey, Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Illinois; R. D. Hissong, Sioux City, Iowa.

The subscription price in the United States is \$1.50 a year, and 50 cents a number; in all other countries of the International Postal Union the price is \$1.75 a year, and 60 cents a number. Subscriptions and orders for single copies should be addressed to the Secretary, Dr. Jesse M. Shaver, Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee, U. S. A.

EDITORIAL

THE ANNUAL MEETING AT COLUMBUS

The next annual meeting of the Club will be held at Columbus, Ohio, on the three days following Thanksgiving Day. The program and business sessions will occupy Friday and Saturday, November 25-26; and on Sunday a visit will be made to Buckeye Lake, which is an interesting inland body of water, about thirty square miles in extent. In the vicinity of this lake 285 species of birds have been recorded.

The sessions will be held in the splendid auditorium of the Ohio State Museum on the Ohio State University campus. Mr. E. S. Thomas, Curator of Natural History, will act as guide to the numerous exhibits of interest to ornithologists. (The Editor especially recommends that visitors be sure to see the extensive collection of Indian effigy pipes, carved in imitation of many species of birds). Plans are being made to have a display of paintings and photographs by members, and those who desire to participate are invited to communicate with the Secretary.

The large membership in Ohio and adjoining states is an assurance that the meeting this year will be well attended, notwithstanding adverse general conditions. It is expected that the total registration will not fall much below that of other recent meetings.

There will not be another issue of the BULLETIN prior to the meeting, but the Secretary's annual letter will give details concerning the program, hotel headquarters, etc. The officers are now at work on the program, and we urge our members to make an early report to the Secretary concerning any contribution to the program. Papers of all types are desired, and especially those illustrated with slides or movies of general interest.

In order to extend our usefulness as well as to keep up our finances we are anxious to enlarge our membership. To this end every member is requested to recommend to the Secretary at least one prospective member. This is the most effective means of developing the organization, and we do not believe that our resources are by any means yet exhausted.

ONE OF THE PLEASURES in bird study is the general fact that every day of field work brings some new bit of information to the observer's experience. The truth of that will be well known to every field worker. Very few would wish to deny that experience of growth. We live in constant hope and expectation that we will have the same experience of discovery and growth tomorrow, and the day after, throughout all the future. This could not be so if it were possible for us to gather all knowledge within any limited period of time. It has been the invariable human experience in the past that individual mental development, as well as collective human knowledge, has been gradual and cumulative. Upon the basis of this experience we entertain a hope and prediction for the future. How vain is, therefore, the mortal who holds himself in conceit, and looks with disdain or condescension upon his fellow-worker.

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS are so necessary to the maintenance of the BULLETIN that any thought of offering general criticism of authors' technique may well be questioned. However, it is with the spirit of mutual helpfulness that the Editor ventures to make a few suggestions. No matter how experienced and skilful a writer may be his manuscript is almost sure to require some editing to bring it into conformity with the style of the magazine to which it is submitted. Many authors study the style of the magazine in which they expect to publish. Doubtless different authors use all degrees of care in preparing a paper for publication. It was our thought to suggest that a manuscript should not be submitted for publication until it had been revised at least three times; once for elimination and condensation; again for clearness. Then the second revision should be read three times, once for syntax, once for capitalization and spelling, and once for punctuation. It may now be revised to include these corrections. There is little doubt that many scientific papers are revised a dozen times or more before publication. Then the author may typewrite it, double-spaced, on good paper (not thin, flimsy stuff), and send the original (not the carbon copy) to the Editor.

DURING MR. RIDGWAY'S LIFE he succeeded in issuing the volumes of "The Birds of North and Middle America" about every three years on the average, until eight volumes had been published. Mr. Ridgway had completed his work on the ninth volume three or four years before his death; so, this work has been allowed to remain unpublished for perhaps seven years. We hope it is not the intention to abandon this publication entirely. The set should be completed. There is no work so complete in the treatment of distribution and synonymy, and it is essential for reference in these matters. In the interest of scientific convenience it should be carried on to completion.